

DTA Meeting Agenda & Minutes

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Location: Zoom

Link: <https://knea.zoom.us/j/2967859511?omn=89898734459>, Meeting ID: 296 785 9511

Attendance:	Building:
☐ Dandra Arter, President	Clear Creek Elementary
☐ Emily Valdez, Vice-President	Starside Elementary
☐ Jeff Wieland, Vice-President	Mill Valley High School
☐ Courtney Arnote, Secretary	Clear Creek Elementary
☐ Gina Miller, Treasurer	Mill Creek Middle School
☐ Lisa Miller-Best	Early Childhood @ CTEC
☐ Jackie Sparks Lecki	Early Childhood @ CTEC
☐ Jen Mead	Belmont Elementary
☐ Dara Thompson	Belmont Elementary
☐ Sara Gehrt	Clear Creek Elementary
☐ Madison Finley	Clear Creek Elementary
☐ OPEN	Horizon Elementary
☐ Shelly Sounders	Mize Elementary
☐ Madison Friesen	Mize Elementary
☐ Laurie Hoover	Prairie Ridge Elementary
☐ Kerri Ptacek	Prairie Ridge Elementary
☐ Erica Minton	Prairie Ridge Elementary
☐ Traci Seyb	Riverview Elementary
☐ Amanda Smith	Riverview Elementary
☐ Lindsay Summers	Starside Elementary
☐ Jessica Young	Starside Elementary

☐ Jennifer Wackerla	Lexington Trails Middle School
☐ Nikki Leisten	Lexington Trails Middle School
☐ Brandi Roberts	Mill Creek Middle School
☐ Chelsea Cassell	Monticello Trails Middle School
☐ Kelly Hart	Monticello Trails Middle School
☐ Renee Cahoy, ESP At-large	Monticello Trails Middle School
☐ Amanda Sweet	De Soto High School
☐ Jennifer Sosna	De Soto High School
☐ Laura Sixta	De Soto High School
☐ Angie DalBello	Mill Valley High School
☐ Linda Sieck, UniServ Director	KNEA

Discussion Topics:	Notes:
Monthly Business	
● November BOE Meeting Recap ○ Date: November 3 ○ Representation: CCE & LTMS ● December BOE Meeting ○ Date: December 1 ○ Representation: HE & MCMS	● November ○ Celebrations ■ Student artwork ■ Torch awards for CCE & LT ○ CTEC programing presentation ■ Expanding access to 10 graders ■ Pathway restructuring at state level, effects funding ● Click HERE to subscribe to the email notification list ○ Consider resubscribing as there was an error with the website in late March...
● Budget Update, Gina Miller ○ Treasurer's Report attached	● Budget Update ○ October review ○ Vote to approve proposed 25-26 budget
Committee Updates	
● Membership, Chair: D. Arter ○ Certified staff update	● Membership: ○ Bargaining Unit: 563

○ Classified staff update (ESP) ○ Recruitment challenge	○ Certified: 314, 55.77% of BU ■ Lost one member ■ Enrolled two new members ○ Classified (ESP): 13 ○ Recruitment challenge ■ Prizes for the top two buildings that recruit the highest percentage of members between August 1 and November 21 ● 1st place: Donuts & coffee/tea ● 2nd place: Sonic drinks
● Negotiations, Chair: J. Wieland	● Negotiations: ○
● Political Action, Chair: A. Sweet	● Political Action: ○ School Board Election Results ■ Seat 4: Rumsey Dewitt ■ Seat 5: Malloy ■ Seat 6: Jonasson
● Education Foundation, Chair: E. Minton	● Education Foundation: ○ Feedback regarding the student fund shared at the last meeting, conversation tabled for the time being. ○ The recent fundraising breakfast was a success, the larger venue allowed for more potential revenue. ○ Next meeting: November 20
New Business	
● SNAP Benefits	● How can we help our students that are struggling with food insecurity amid the government shutdown? ○
● REACH 2026 ○ Leadership Development Training	● Details ○ See flyer attached below. ○ Nominate yourself or someone else that would make a great future leader! ○ Contact Dandra Arter with nominations.
● Social Media and the Law	● Register for round 2 on Wednesday, November 19 at 4:30pm at the Starside

	library. Link: https://forms.gle/in4VeX3gZhyCsariZ
American Education Week Celebration	- AWE, Nov. 17-21 “Marking Leave” Document - Sent with invite to order shirts...we hope it's helping members! - FREE T-shirts - The shirts are in and being sorted as we speak. - BRs: Plan to pick-up next week and distribute. - Members: Wear your shirts on ____ in honor of American Education Week!
- Annual “Adopt-a-Family” Outreach - Angie DalBello	- Adopt-a-Family
- Ad Astra Board Seat - Ad Astra Ad Board, DTA Reps D. Arter, Vice-Chair G. Miller, Member A. Sweet, Member ?	- Ad Astra Board Seat - We are looking for a volunteer to represent DTA at these meetings. There are typically four a year and dinner is provided. You can also submit a voucher to be reimbursed for mileage. You don't have to be a building rep to get involved.

Action Taken/Action Needed:	Notes:
Vote to approve 25-26 budget	



Helpful Links for Members:	Notes:
DTA Website	The home of the De Soto Teachers' Association...access the current PNA, salary schedules, membership form/link, and negotiations updates.
KNEA Website	The home of the Kansas National Education Association...access links to action, advocacy, and resources.
NEA Website	The home of the National Education Association...access information regarding your rights, professional excellence, and advocacy efforts.
KNEA Access Card	Use your union membership to access deals on things you purchase everyday from food to clothing to vacations. Need login information? Contact Betty Woods @ 913.268.4005
NEA Member Benefits	Access benefits and discounts designed exclusively for educators. 😊
Under the Dome	Keep up to date with legislative events, track bills, review committee work, and easily access your legislators' contact information at this link.
VESi	KNEA has partnered with Baker University to offer up to NINE graduate credits for only \$250! Learn more here...



November Treasurer's Report 11.05.2025

Account balance 10.31.2025	\$13,362.02
Deposits during October:	
Direct Deposit from KNEA on 10.21.2025	\$1.67
USD232 Deposit (from 9/30) on 10.27.2025	\$238.56
Interest deposit on 10.31.2025	\$2.24
Available balance 11.03.2025	\$10444.47
Payments/Expenses (Outstanding check 1470 for shirts)	\$2,917.55
**from reserves	
Account Funds as of 11.03.2025	\$10,444.47

DTA Budget 2025-26. (starting 9/1/2025)

MONEY SPENT IN BUDGET YEAR		BUDGET	AVAILABLE
Member Recruitment	\$0	\$200	\$200
Member Retention	\$0	\$800	\$800
Member Engagement	\$0	\$250	\$250
Leadership	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
Scholarship	\$0	\$800	\$800
Community Outreach (website)	\$0	\$235	\$235
Negotiations	\$0	\$150	\$150
Teacher of Excellence	\$0	\$550	\$550
Ad Astra Sectional Meeting	\$0	\$50	\$50
KS Representative Assembly	\$0	\$375	\$375
National Representative Assembly	\$0	\$560	\$560
End of Year Gifts (Retirements)	\$0	\$520	\$520
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$240	\$650	\$410
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$240	\$6,640	\$6,400

Gina Miller 11/08/2025



REACH 2026

Leadership Development Training

CALLING ALL EMERGING LEADERS!

February 27-28, 2026

or May 29-30

KNEA Headquarters

Who are the emerging leaders in your locals?

KNEA offers a special leadership training designed for members who have ten or fewer years of education experience or have not held an office higher than building representative.

This training provides the opportunity to learn about unionism, leadership, working in teams, and ways to get involved at every level of the union.

The training is held in Topeka on a Friday night through Saturday afternoon. Nominees must commit to the full session to be considered for participation. Lodging and meals are included.

If you know someone who would be a great fit--or if you would like to nominate yourself--please use the nomination QR code below!

Nominations must be received by January 30, 2026, for the February session and May 1, 2026, for the May session.

NOMINATIONS - [CLICK HERE](#) OR SCAN QR CODE

Questions?

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